

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**ABSTRACT**

ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT – Constitution of Bhajana Mandalis under the auspices of Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust (HDPT) in the Endowments Department – Formulation of guidelines - Orders - Issued.

-----

**REVENUE (ENDOWMENTS.I) DEPARTMENT**

G.O.RT.No. 333

Dated: 28-04-2015.

Read the following

-oOo-

ORDER:-

From times immemorial, temples have functioned as centres of Dharmik activities, social congregations, religious folk performances, fairs and festivals, spiritual discourses and Dharmik pronouncements. Social coherence, spiritual effulgence, emotional integration and community discipline are the positive impacts of the temples across the country. It has been said that temple culture has largely contributed to national integration and national discipline in terms of social unification and individual development. In all these cases, the local bhajan mandals have played a predominant role.

2. The folk arts and the demonstration of theatrical and stage-based performances have significantly contributed to the growth of Bhajana mandalis.

3. The Bhajana Mandalis have been in existence right from the advent of the Bhakthi movement launched by the religious reformers over 1000 years, may be from the time of Ramanujacharya and Madhvacharya in the South especially according to one count. With the intervention of non-Hindu organizations, the Bhajana Mandalis in the villages in particular and towns in general have started gradually degenerating. Dharma Pracharam, being the core activity of the Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust (HDPT) has to focus on this vital subject and galvanize the stake holders of the Hindu temples and launch the activity of Dharma Pracharam by starting or strengthening the existing Bhajana Mandalis under each temple. Hence, the immediate need for composition, constitution and promotion of Bhajana Mandalis under each temple in a spirit of religious renaissance and the following guidelines are formulated:-

**I) COMPOSITION:**

- a) It is decided to start at least one Bhajana Mandali initially under each temple at the village level, with the local members of the Hindu community and one or more Bhajana Mandalis in the urban areas, for men, women and children each separately as far as practicable.
- b) Each Bhajana Mandali may consist of 25 members with due representation for women and prominent Pandits.
- c) Good singers and Sankeertandars and Mala Dasaras, wherever present, may be included.
- d) A prominent / accredited Swamiji in the area may be requested to preside over the Bhajana Mandali.
- e) It is also for consideration to include each and every popular religious dignitary or personality in each Bhajana Mandali for proper guidance.
- f) Philanthropists, sponsors or donors who are like-minded must also be encouraged to form Bhajana Mandalis.
- g) This Bhajana mandali should be attached to each temple in the village.



## **II) WORKING PATTERN:**

- a) Each Bhajana mandali is expected to organize Bhajans on daily basis for at least one hour during 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm or otherwise convenient and on the rest of the days for more hours, depending upon the convenience of the members.
- b) Bhajans may be specially organized on festive days and on the days of special importance like Ekadasi etc.
- c) It is expected that each Bhajana Mandali maintains a kind of attendance register to streamline its functioning and identify those who demonstrate interest and inclination in the promotion of the Bhajana Mandali and also for appropriate recognition and honour on special occasions.
- d) The Bhajana Mandalis already empanelled by Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams will also coexist alongside the newly organized Bhajana Mandalis.
- e) Bhajana Mandalis may also be promoted to function as **Temple Brigades** (protection groups), Sevadals, Prasadam-distributors, Event Managers and self-help groups during important occasions and festivals organized by the temple.
- f) The temple management may provide Bhajana items such as musical items (Talams / dolaks / Tabala / Sruthi etc.) to each Bhajana Mandali for performing Bhajans from its own resources or through public sponsors. However, Bhajan items may be kept in safecustody of the temple.
- g) CDs and DVDs relating to Bhajans may also be provided to the Bhajana Mandali by the temple.

## **III) DRESS CODE:**

The members of Bhajana Mandalis have to wear traditional dress, or at least a saffron scarf as to maintain a distinct identity.

## **IV) PRASADAM DISTRIBUTION:**

It must be ensured that Daiva Prasadam must be arranged by the temple management to all the members without fail at the end of the Bhajan. It may also be arranged by the donors. The Prasadam may be in form of Pulihora, Chakra Pongal, Dadhyojanam, sundal or any other good item of reasonable quantity.

## **V) BHAJAN MELAS:**

It is the key objective of all Temples to strengthen and promote Dharma Pracharam as it keeps people in peace and promotes community harmony. It is only possible when large number of people are enlisted as members in Bhajana Mandalis and fully involved in its vibrant functioning. People's participation is inseparably intertwined with the temple-based management of any fairs and festivals.

4. Therefore, a kind of competition among the Bhajana Mandalis at the local, regional and central level has to be carefully planned, designed and organized. Appropriate recognition of the demonstration of talent in terms of singing, rendering and organizing in chorus will be given by issuing certificates and gifts at various levels. A detailed plan in this regard will be worked out by the Deputy Commissioners of Endowments Department in consultation with the Director,

SITA. Bhajana competitions will be organized accordingly at the village level, district level, regional level and state level. The meritorious Bhajana Mandalis will be honoured with Certificates and gifts in form of mementos and Bhajana instruments.

5. However, the winners at the state level competition will be provided with an opportunity of visiting prominent temples such as Tirupati, Dwaraka Tirumala, Srisailem, Simhachalam, Sri Kalahasthi etc. at the cost of the Endowments Department as a special recognition.

6. The Commissioner, Endowments Department, Andhra Pradesh shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

J.S.V.PRASAD,  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To  
The Commissioner, Endowments Department, A.P. Hyderabad.

Copy to:

P.S. to M. (Endt.)

P.S. to Prl. Secy. (Endt.)

SF/SC

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

